



Practice standards Review of Child Protection Conferences

Child Assessments

Role of the Social Worker

A reviewed Child Assessment must be completed to support decision making in the Review of Child Protection Conferences (RCPCs) in the following circumstances:

- When the Social Worker is of the view that risk has diminished for the child and they are no longer at risk of significant harm and their planned recommendation to conference is to end the Child Protection Plan and step down.
- When there is a strong opinion from the core group that a Child Protection Plan should end and step down due to diminished risk, regardless of the view of the Social Worker.
- When a Child Protection Plan has reached 12 months.

The assessment must be submitted to the Practice Lead two weeks before the conference date to allow the Practice Lead to quality assure the assessment.

The assessment must be shared with parents and submitted to the Safeguarding Unit no later than 3 days before the date of the conference.

Role of the Practice Lead

It is expected that the Practice Lead will:

- Robustly quality assure the assessment and does not approve the assessment until they are satisfied that it is of a good standard and it will support decision making.
- Attend all RCPCs where there is a recommendation from the Social Worker or the core group that a Child Protection Plan should end due to diminished risk.

Role of the Conference Chair/IRM

The conferences that meet the criteria above will be stepped down if they are not supported by a Child Assessment and if this is not received within timescale. Any conferences stood down due to non-provision of an assessment will be formally raised with the Principal Manager via the dispute resolution process.

If the Conference Chair is of the view that the assessment and reports to conference do not evidence sufficiently the recommendations made to conference about the need for an ongoing Child Protection Plan then they must follow the [Practice Guidance - The Role of the Conference Chair in Decision Making: Directing the Outcome of Conference](#)